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Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen: amendments to draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.23/Rev.1

Agricultural technology for development

1. Insert the following new preambular paragraph after the fifth preambular paragraph:

"*Stressing* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries, and that concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in Agenda 21".

2. Insert the following two new preambular paragraphs after the old seventh preambular paragraph:

"*Recognizing* that the achievement of many of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in many countries is currently off track, and emphasizing that vigorous implementation of all development commitments will be needed without delay if the Goals are to be achieved,

"*Remaining concerned* that Africa is the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa".

3. Insert the following new paragraph after the old ninth preambular paragraph:

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"*Reaffirming* that agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, and sustainable agriculture and rural development are essential to the implementation of an integrated approach to increasing food production and enhancing food security and food safety in an environmentally sustainable way, and that the transfer of agricultural technology to developing countries facilitates the advancing of sustainable agriculture and food production and security".

4. Insert the following two new operative paragraphs after operative paragraph 1:

"2. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly as they affect children, is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and that rural and agricultural development should be an integral part of national and international development policies, calls for increased productive investment in rural and agricultural development to achieve food security, in this regard calls for enhanced support for agricultural development and trade capacity-building in the agricultural sector in developing countries, including by the international community and the United Nations system, and encourages support for commodity development projects, especially market-based projects, and for their preparation under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities;

"3. *Resolves* to work expeditiously towards integrating the development dimensions in rule-making in the intellectual property regime that is development-oriented and that facilitates the transfer of agricultural technology and knowledge to developing countries under fair and affordable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms".

5. Insert the following new operative paragraph after old operative paragraph 6 (now new operative paragraph 8):

"*Notes* that agriculture lags behind the manufacturing sector in the process of establishment of multilateral disciplines and in the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and that since most of the world's poor make their living from agriculture, the livelihood and standards of living of many of them are seriously jeopardized by the serious distortions in production and trade in agricultural products caused by the high levels of export subsidies, trade-distorting domestic support and protectionism of many developed countries".